

# Search for a Hero

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Jack Anderson

ONE OF THE unsung heroes of the Nazi holocaust, a man who saved more than 10,000 Jews from the concentration camps, may himself still be a prisoner of the Soviet archipelago. A 30-year international effort to learn the fate of this World War II crusader has been rebuffed by the Kremlin.

Raoul Wallenberg, distinguished Swedish diplomat and scion of a wealthy Stockholm family, organized a campaign to save the lives of thousands of Jews who were to be deported to Nazi death factories from Budapest, Hungary.

The young diplomat invented a "protective passport" with the triple-crown seal of the Swedish king, which put thousands of Jews under the wing of the Swedish government.

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THEN, using little more than his wit and diplomatic bluff, Wallenberg obtained housing for his Jewish charges inside Budapest. When anti-Semites tried to stir the mobs, they were rebuffed by Wallenberg and his friends who threatened international retaliation if the Jews were harmed.

Essentially an anti-semitic Jew-baiter, the Soviet government arrested the hero, then held him in a prison camp. Although the government has never officially acknowledged his arrest, it is known that the Jews he saved have left

A forced march to Austria was ordered.

Wallenberg and his aides traveled the highway daily, intercepting the death march and flashing diplomatic papers. They managed to save the lives of hundreds of victims.

Soviet soldiers finally closed in on Budapest. But instead of welcoming Wallenberg as a hero, the Soviets seized him and shipped him off to Russia. He became a "non-person," in one of the Kremlin's nameless penal institutions.

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AT FIRST, the Soviets denied that they had abducted the Swedish diplomat. But the denial was proven to be false, so Soviet officials said Wallenberg had been taken captive and had died in July 1947 in Soviet custody.

But the death sentence the Soviets meted out to the diplomat was ignored, and Soviet prisoners continued to whisper that he was still alive. Wallenberg has been spotted once or twice in prison camps then in various European states.

Reported Nazi hunter Simon Wiesner last fall told that he had seen the great diplomat in a prison camp. He said that he had seen Wallenberg in a prison camp in the Soviet Union. He said that he had seen Wallenberg in a prison camp in the Soviet Union. He said that he had seen Wallenberg in a prison camp in the Soviet Union.

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